

Extracts from the Incorporation Act (1919) and the Association's Constitution

BASIC DOCTRINES

The Incorporation Act sets out the following doctrines as the basis upon which the Association is founded:

- (a) The sinfulness of man
 - (b) The Deity of Jesus Christ
 - (c) His atonement for the sin of man
 - (d) The need of the Holy Spirit for conversion
 - (e) The divine inspiration of the Scripture
 - (f) The resurrection of the dead
 - (g) Rewards and punishment in a future state
 - (h) The baptism of believers only by immersion.
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5 OBJECTS

The Association exists to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ in word, deed and sign, through interdependent partnerships by:

- 5.1 promoting fellowship and cooperation among its members, affiliated churches and affiliated groups
 - 5.2 facilitating the provision of resources for healthy churches, pastors and other church leaders
 - 5.3 establishing and maintaining places of worship for effective ministry and mission
 - 5.4 educating, training and accrediting Baptist ministers
 - 5.5 fostering collaborative ministries, projects and missional activities in NSW, the ACT and globally
 - 5.6 articulating a public voice on behalf of the Baptist movement in NSW, the ACT and globally, and
 - 5.7 encouraging the public worship of God in accordance with the foundational beliefs.
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6. VALUES

6.1 Core values

The core values of the Association include a common life that is:

- (a) Christ centred
 - (i) enjoying a dynamic relationship with Jesus
 - (ii) relying on the Bible as foundational to shaping our understanding of Christ, our faith and the world

- (iii) being led and empowered by the Spirit of Christ to live a life of worship
 - (iv) believing God is able to do more than we ask or imagine.
- (b) Mission shaped
- (i) committed to the announcement and demonstration of the universal reign of God through Christ
 - (ii) motivated by love for God and others
 - (iii) seeing people, communities and societies transformed
 - (iv) biasing our resources toward mission, both locally and globally.
- (c) Relationally committed
- (i) serving each other and working together, honouring the varied expressions of our faith and practice and our cultural diversity
 - (ii) actively promoting healthy unity through mutual collaboration, transparency and accountability
 - (iii) prioritising authentic relationships over programs and structures
 - (iv) honouring marriage as an institution created by God as the foundation for a lifelong faithful union of a man and a woman
 - (v) actively working to establish and maintain just relationships and systems in our churches, communities and world.
- (d) People empowering
- (i) nurturing a disciple making culture that encourages, shapes and releases every person to glorify God in all of their life
 - (ii) investing strategically in the identification, development and empowerment of leaders
 - (iii) respecting our heritage whilst championing further innovation.
- (e) Partnership oriented
- (i) recognising and celebrating God at work both within and beyond our movement
 - (ii) partnering with like-minded bodies in the mission of God both locally and globally
 - (iii) evidenced by mutual respect, healthy dialogue, and where appropriate resource sharing and the development of common goals.

6.2 Operational values

The operational values of the Association include:

- (a) Good governance which -
 - (i) reflects our core values

- (ii) encourages empowerment and accountability of decision makers at appropriate levels
 - (iii) fosters a culture of transparency in its processes and reporting, and
 - (iv) minimises bureaucracy and permits decisions to be made in a timely manner.
- (b) Godly conduct in meetings, including a preference for:
- (i) decision making by consensus
 - (ii) personal conduct when speaking or delivering a report or statement characterised by respect and dignity, and
 - (iii) avoiding unnecessary repetition, unbecoming language and any breach of agreed procedures.
- (c) Effective conflict resolution, noting that:
- (i) ministering together in community may occasionally give rise to conflict; the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes in private or within the Christian community
 - (ii) conflict impacts upon the Association and its witness for Christ
 - (iii) biblically based dispute resolution procedures aim to bring glory to God, allow us to grow to be more like Christ, and assist us to resolve the dispute and achieve reconciliation.